

New vaccine requirements for students in 2010-2011 school year

The Wisconsin Student Immunization law was changed to add new vaccine requirements for children attending Day Care and for school age children. Parents are required to have their children vaccinated or claim a waiver. The new requirements for the 2009-2010 school year are as follows:

Students in:	New Vaccines Required:
Day Care Centers	Pneumococcal vaccine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1-3 doses depending on age• Applies to children through age 4
5 year old Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 12	2 doses chickenpox vaccine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not required if had chickenpox disease• 2 grades added per year until all grades are covered in 2013-2014
Grade 6 through 12	1 dose of Tdap <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not required if child had a vaccine with tetanus or diphtheria (e.g. DTap, Td, DT, TT) within 5 years of entering these grades

All recommended and required vaccines are available at the routine Public Health Division Monthly Immunization Clinics. The vaccines may also be obtained from your child's doctor. Please have your child immunized well in advance of school opening to avoid the late summer rush at doctor's offices and immunization clinics. More information about the new vaccine requirements can be found at the State of Wisconsin Immunization Program website at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/>

Why are these requirements being made?

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE

The pneumococcal vaccine protects against infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria that can cause serious illness and death. The bacteria is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in the United States. It was responsible for about 200 deaths each year among children under 5 years of age. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended the pneumococcal vaccine for many years. What is new is that it is now required for children in day care. In Mid 2010, a new pneumococcal vaccine called Prevnar 13 replaced the Prevnar 7. Those children who completed the series with Prevnar 7 are recommended to get one Prevnar 13 for complete protection.

Tdap VACCINE

From 1986 through 2004, Wisconsin had the 5th highest rate of pertussis (whooping cough) in the nation with almost 5,000 cases being reported in 2004 alone. In Waukesha County, there were 488 cases of pertussis in 2004 and the county continues to have twice the normal number of cases. Pertussis can be a serious problem for children and parents. It can cause weeks or months of a severe cough and the ill child must stay isolated at home for the first 5 days of antibiotic treatment.

Infants and young children receive a vaccine called DTaP to protect them from pertussis. By age 10 the vaccine protection may be decreased. The Tdap is a new vaccine to protect adolescents and adults from pertussis. It will help to stop school outbreaks.

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CHICKENPOX VACCINE

Chickenpox causes a rash with up to 200 – 500 itchy blisters. Many cases are mild, but deaths from disease can occur. Before the vaccine, about 100 people died every year in the United States. The most common complication is bacterial infection of the skin or other parts of the body. Rare but serious complications are pneumonia or infection of the brain. Most complications occur in previously healthy children. Even an average case of chickenpox is uncomfortable and the child needs to be kept out of day care or school for a week or more. In 2007, there were 422 cases of chickenpox reported in Waukesha County.

The number of cases of chickenpox was greatly decreased by the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. But some children with 1 chickenpox vaccine still had mild cases of chickenpox and could pass the disease to others. For this reason, the CDC recommends 2 doses of vaccine for everyone who did not have the disease.

What do parents need to do?

If you have a child in day care, make sure your child has received all of the needed doses of the pneumococcal disease. Report the dates of the vaccines to the day care center. You can use the state form Day Care Immunization Record or other form approved by your day care.

If you have a child in elementary grades listed above, have your child vaccinated with Tdap and/or Varicella vaccine if he or she has not already received the vaccine(s). Report the dates of the vaccines to the school. You can use the state form Student Immunization Record or other form approved by your school. Add the vaccine dates to the permanent immunization record you keep for your child at home. In the future, the immunization dates may be needed for other schools, colleges or employers.

Can the new vaccine requirements be waived?

Immunization requirements will be waived for children whose parents elect a religious or personal conviction waiver option on the Day Care Immunization Record or the Student Immunization Record form. A health waiver is also available and must be signed by a physician.

If my child already had pertussis disease, should he or she still get the Tdap vaccine?

Children who have had pertussis disease should still receive Tdap. This is because the length of protection from disease is not known. This is not an exception in the Immunization Law to the Tdap vaccine requirement.